

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 569

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, EEC, YU

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE EC

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1170

1. THE PRESIDENT OF THE YUGOSLAV FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, BIJEDIC, ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER SMILE AND SEVERAL OTHER OFFICIALS, MET WITH AN EC COMMISSION DELEGATION HEADED BY SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES IN BRUSSELS ON FEBRUARY 19. COMMISSION SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT THE VISIT WAS A "POLITICAL" ONE AND THAT LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE. BIJEDIC SPOKE AT LENGTH OF YUGOSLAVIA'S DESIRE TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE ITS "ALREADY GOOD" RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY. HE WELCOMED THE RECENT EC COUNCIL DECISION TO ALLOW YUGOSLAVIA ACCESS TO EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TRANS-YUGOSLAV HIGHWAY. BIJEDIC SAID THAT THE AREA OF FINANCIAL COOPERATION WAS ONE WHICH YUGOSLAVIA HOPED TO SEE DEVELOP OVER THE COMING YEARS. BIJEDIC TOLD THE COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES OF YUGOSLAVIA'S NEGATIVE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE COMMUNITY BUT CONFINED HIMSELF, ACCORDING TO A SOURCE PRESENT FOR THE DISCUSSION, TO ONLY A GENERAL STATEMENT EXPRESSING HOPE THAT THE SITUATION WOULD IMPROVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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2. AFTER SOME PLEASANTRIES, SOAMES RESPONDED TO BIJEDIC'S

LATTER POINT BY NOTING THE EFFECTS OF THE RECESSION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY. HE CITED THE FACT THAT YUGOSLAVIA'S DEMAND FOR EC PRODUCTS HAD INCREASED WHILE THE COMMUNITY'S DEMAND FOR YUGOSLAVIA'S EXPORTS HAD DECLINED. SOAMES INDICATED THE COMMUNITY'S WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS REGARDING THE BEEF BAN AND OTHER TRADE ISSUES BUT SAID THAT IT WAS HIS VIEW THAT THE BEST SOLUTION TO YUGOSLAV BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEM VIS-A-VIS THE COMMUNITY RESTED WITH A RETURN OF ECONOMIC GOOD HEALTH IN THE EC.

3. COMMISSION SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED SURPRISE TO US THAT BIJEDIC WAS SO UNCONCERNED WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF EC/YUGOSLAV PRELATIONS. FOR ITS PART, THE COMMISSION SIDE HAD PREPARED FOR AND WAS EXPECTING AT LEAST SOME HARD BARGAINING REGARDING THE BEEF BAN AND OTHER OUTSTANDING TRADE ISSUES. OUR SOURCES CONCLUDE THAT BIJEDIC WAS ONLY SEEKING A PROTOCOL DISPLAY AND THAT SUBSTANTIVE TRADE MATTERS WILL CONTINUE TO BE DEALT WITH BY SMOLE.HINTON

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS  
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**Draft Date:** 20 FEB 1976  
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